

## Among Our Friends

The Berendo folk dancers who meet at the Berendo Jr. High School of Los Angeles, every Monday evening at 8, is growing rapidly. It is a beginners group with dances taught by Millie Libaw and Dorothy Harvey . . . The John Amneus clan forsook the land of sunshine (meaning California) and moved to the land of snow, around Detroit, Mich. . . . Mr. Thad Byrne, of Spokane, Wash., took a group of BTC'rs to Europe last summer for ten weeks and during the last elections he got himself elected for the State Legislature and moved during January to Olympia. Good luck to the whole Byrne clan.

Juanita Wood's new group which meets at the Anchorage (Alaska) every Monday at seven P. M. was named "Igloo Y Steppers". Step in and have fun . . . Brookline Neil Handelman ski'd and folk danced in the Denver area during the holiday season . . . Jack Stukas, the ever busy Lith of Newark, N.Y. has a new weekly radio hour which will be called "The Cartered Polka Party" which will feature polkas and folk dances of all nations, every Sunday at 2 - 2:30 P.M. over station KVNJ (620). He is THE guy for the job.

Many VILTITES from diverse place congregated at Mt. Horeb, Wic. where Jane Farwell holds forth with her annual Christmas Institute. Dick Crum was there, too, to lead in some dances. Cecilia Lisankis of Dayton, Ohio (Cne of the many Daytonites present, presided over the Lithuanian Xmas section .All enjoyed sleighing over three feet of snow . . . Walter and Lisa Lekis are working "on a million things", records, doctorate in anthropology, etc. They now live in Gainesville, Fla.

Chuck Prater, ex-Navy boy and VILTIS dancer, recently discharged, upon returning home to Childress, Texas, was hospitalized with a liver ailment and had to be fed intravenously. Soon after his dad, too, was hospitalized in the next bed with a back ailment. We are happy to state that Chuck is now on the mend . . . Marine lad Lloyd Young from Texas and Army boy Richard Warner, son of the Spokane globe-trotting Warners, are both now seeing duty in the Pacific area . . . Sgt. Jim and Pat Radotstiz, Chicagoans now stationed in El Paso, Tex., chairmanned a style show in the El Paso Fall Festival and also danced in a Dreisteir demonstration.

Wayne Kelly, ex-Navy and ex-VILTIS dancer now back home in Granite City, Ill., after months of good dancing in San Diego is very much "regusted" with the dancing in the St. Louis area. Wayne threatens to get married this June . . . David Weaver, San Diego, another ex-Navy youth is now teaching accordion at San Diego State College . . . Jerry Joris, Chicago reunited with the Chens (sister and family) in Norwalk, Conn., while Bernie Kosnick, also, Chicagoan, Christmased in Florida . . . Don Linscott, Bakersfield, Cal., was shipped to Fairbanks, Alaska for winter, while his lovely bride-wife, Jackie, is waiting at the port for the first chance to join him.

### ROY HINTON DISCHARGED

San Diego lost one of its top notch dancers when Roy Hinton, PN3, USN was discharged on Jan. 7th. In a year and a half, he has achieved an enviable reputation excelling in all folk and Spanish work. He was one of the main VILTIS Dancers, helped out on VILTIS, danced with all San Diego groups and got his Spanish training from the noted Ana Camargo. With his return to the farm in St. Elmo, Ill., all of this will, regretfully, terminate. VILTIS and all his many friends wish Roy the sincerest wishes. We have been happy to have known him and wish him

good fortune in all his undertakings.

His folks, Mr. and Mrs. Lewell Hinton, came to San Diego in time for his discharge and the ride back with Roy. Roy's last dance participation took place at the Glendale festival on January 9th.

### LATEST STAFF FOR OREGON DANCERS

Oregon Folk Dance Federation met December 5 in Eugene, Oregon and elected the following officers for 1955:

Walter E. Reager, President, Portland; Joe Vejlupek, Vice-President, Salem; Mrs. Hildred Rice, Secretary-Treasurer, Corvallis; and Ruth Bowen, Historian, Portland.

Mrs. Pirkko Roecker, retiring president, was given a unanimous vote of thanks for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Federation during 1954. Two new clubs were accepted into membership: Peasant Folk Dancers of Portland directed by Francis Kies, and Musseltovs, Corvallis, directed by John Hancock. Following the meeting everyone enjoyed folk dancing.

### JOHN HANCOCK ENGAGED TO WED

Thousands met and liked John Hancock when he traveled with Vyts during this past summer and all those who met him will extend happy felicitations to John upon his engagement to Carol Meyer, a real sweet girl. The engagement took place on Christmas eve in Corvallis, Ore., where John is attending his last year of college. He will be graduated as a landscaper. Mr. and Mrs. John Hancock, Sr. came in for the event from San Diego. We all wish John every form of good fortune. The wedding is to take place in Corvallis during the end of June.

It has now become established fact that whoever chaffeurs Vyts gets married the following year. This is what happened to Bill Brooks, John Mitchell and now John Hancock. Two others, tho they didn't marry the following year, also met the same fate: Arden Johnson and Francis Hanson. Who is the next lucky bachelor anxious to catch the bridal bouquet?

### THE REVELES CLAN

Mrs. Elisa Reveles-Brown, herself of Hispanic extraction but a native of Mexico and now living in Los Angeles, raised a very talented number of children; four boys and one girl. Gonzalo is a fine artist; Mario an excellent organist; Efren plays the violin and is a prize winning author. His latest book deals with Amerindian legends. It was relased from the press on November 23rd. (See special review in the book section). His "Indian Campfire Tales", authentic legends collected from his Amerindian friends, the Cahuillas, whose reservations are around Idyllwild, Calif., where Efren lives, is very understandingly and charmingly told and it makes truly fascinating reading. It is a book which would proudly grace any folkloric library. But even of greater interest will the book be to those who are familiar with Idyllwild and know the landmarks, for all those landmarks have a fascinating legend connected with them, all of which are found in the book. If you can't get "Indian Campfire Tales" in your store then write to Efren Reveles, Box 4, Idyllwild, Calif.

Mrs. Reveles-Brown is known to many folk dancers of the Los Angeles area. Some years back she taught some Mexican dances and the Sardana, which she learned as a girl from her father. Some of the sons are also greatly interested in the folk dance. Mario is a member of the San Diego groups, while Efren, who danced little, "itches" to descend the heights of Idyllwild in order to be able to folk dance.

The Cahuilla Indians of the Palm Springs reservation held a 24 hour pow-wow in honor of Efren with many ancient rituals, dances and chants plus feasting as the main feature.

## As For Myself



A genuine Arab, Omar Abu Debbouseh, and a synthetic one, Vyts, taken by Al Bump during the Fresno Raisin Festival. To right is my beloved niece, Nancy Carol Dulys before she went to church to receive her first Holy Communion. Nancy was a PM baby, a tiny mite who lived in an incubator for a while until she reached five pounds. Now, she is quite a gal and speaks beautifully Lithuanian as well as English.

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The period since the last VILTIS was hectic and not overly pleasant. I rushed to San Francisco for the Thanksgiving Day week-end Kolo Festival, rushed right back traveling all night, in order to move and be in the new place by Dec. 1st. Rushed right back to Los Angeles to put out the book EVENING SONG, and VILTIS, working late hours. It finally caught up with me and by mid-month I caught me a rough dose of flu which kept me very retired for the balance of the year. I would have probably still been unpacked even for Christmas had it not ben for help of many friends who came to set the house to order and prettyfy it for the holiday season. For this extended helping hand I am most grateful to the Farrells, Francis'es, Wolls, Weavers and Roy Hinton.

For New Year's Eve my gang left for Los Angeles. I did not yield to temptation but stayed home, as the Mexicans say, "Solo - solito" (all alone—and feeling blue.)

On the happier side of the ledger 1954 was a happy year and a healthy year. I had even reached the unbelievable high mark of 146 in weight! I made the Lithuanian Encyclopedia and also a spot in the book "Well Known American Lithuanians", so I reckon I am now "perpetuated". After my latest book came out, the EVENING SONG, there was a very nice and large write-up in the San Diego Tribune. These types of honors were many, but financially I'm still having a very hard struggle.

In between the holidays, I was "dragged" (willingly) for several side trips. Harold Tucker who visited from Cleveland, and Dotty Passarelli, took me to La Jolla where we visited the Scripps Oceanographic Institute. My Friend San Hinton is the curator there, and that enabled us to see the behind-the-scenes, which normally is not possible. The

next day, Mrs. Ruth Wright from Reedley, Cali., and her friend, Miss Faust, took me for a trip to Ensenada, Mexico. The trip was enchanting, but the town is greatly over-rated.

Another "exciting thing" which happened at the closing of the year was my election to the presidency of the San Diego Folk Dancers. The new officers are all congenial and of one aim . . . to make a better and happier club.

Many thanks to all of you for the numerous cards which came in many languages (Lith., French, Spanish, Polish, Ukrainian, German, Danish) and from many lands (Japan, Chile, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, Israel, France, Germany and New Zealand).

May the declaration of "Good Will Toward All," which radiates during the Christmas season, be continued throughout the year, and may the coming year be one of good health and happiness, prosperity and happy dancing for all of us

Pasimatysim  
VYTS-FIN

## Wedding Bells

### Garcia - Hobgood

Chicagoan John Hobgood who is studying for his MA in Anthropology at the University fo Mexico, during his studies of the natives found for himself an extremely pretty Senorita, Olga Garcia y Lemus, to whom he was wed on June 5th, 1954, at the church of Pronto Socoro near the historic Arbol de la Noche Trieste (where Cortez wept when luck was gainst him) in the town of El Deserte de los Leones. John's first trip to Mexico was with ye editor. Bien Dicho.

### Barnes - Ottoson

Carol Barnes, former Minnesotan now teaching in Portland, Or. and a dance member of Peasants in that city, was married on December 26th, 1954, to Walt Ottoson, another "Peasant Dancer". The rest of the "Peasants" danced Espunyolet, the Catalan wedding dance, at their wedding. Sincere congratulations for happy dancing ever after.

### Rata - Klinger

Florence Rata, an old time VILTIS reader was wed during August to Allen Klinger, in Berkeley, Calif., where the newlyweds make their home. To both our sincerest felicitations.

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### LITH BOOTH SUCCESS IN DETROIT

Our booth was a success this year. It was the most outstanding of the 31 nationality booths, and it was the only one televised and shown at the 11:00 P.M. news.

On the opening day on the auditorium stage a group of elderly Lithuanian ladies in native costumes "verpē linus" (spun flax) and while working the spinning wheel one sang to the accompaniment of an accordionist and then they danced a zippy polka.

Sunday night was the big nite. Seven beautiful Lith girls from the University of Michigan did a ballet in costume—"The Amber Necklace", after which dancing for the public followed.

It was a pleasure to be cairman when one has cooperative people to work with, and it was my good luck to have them. The other two on the committee were Mrs. Kunigunda Kodaitis and Antanas Melnikas who is a well known artist from Lithuania and Italy.

ROSE BILAITS  
Detroit Cultural Club  
Detroit, Mich